

NEW YEARS MESSAGE Jan-6th 2008
MESSAGE NEW YEARS A TIME OF PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

This is the first Sunday of the new year, 2022. We worked hard to come up with a calendar for this year. Even with all our efforts, there are still mistakes in the calendar. One of my grandchildren wanted to know why their birthday was not in the calendar. I told them it was their grandmother's fault because she didn't catch it when she proof read it.

So we start a new year with a new calendar and activities. New Years is a time where we look to the future and try to make plans for the future. It is a time of resolutions and introspection. Our theme for our special New Year's eve musical was a perfect theme for the occasion, a Biblical timeline of our past present and future. The Bible gives us plenty of warnings about making unspiritual plans in this life. Yet the truth is that most people go on their merry way and fail to make spiritual resolutions and commitments for the New Year.

Jesus said,

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.

Yet for the most part people fall under the rebuke of James 4:13-17

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

As we read James 4:13-17 we should note that James rebukes his readers for their improper attitude about planning for the future.

He says, GO TO NOW.

Expression of speech, come on, now listen to this.

WHAT MISTAKES DO PEOPLE MAKE IN TRYING TO PLAN OUT THEIR FUTURE?

NOTE: THESE PEOPLE HAD ABOUT A 1 year plan.

HERE IS A LIST OF THEIR MISTAKES, OR A LIST OF THEIR SINS:

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

James 4:16 But now ye rejoyce in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

CONSIDER THE MISTAKES OR SINS THAT JAMES EXPOSES IN JAMES 4:13-17

I. James 4:13 Exposed the improper way to plan for the future. NOTE THE MISTAKES JAMES EXPOSED IN THIS PASSAGE ABOUT PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE.

1. First of all James Exposes the mistake of being proud. Sin of pride.

TO BOAST ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DO IS PRIDE, to say dogmatically they can predict what they will be doing 1 year in advance.

Sin of pride.

Sin of self sufficiency.

Sin of pretending you can know the future.

The sin of forgetting that your life is short..

The sin of really thinking you are in control.

Ye rejoyce in your boasting. Such boasting is labeled Evil.

TO BOAST ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DO IS SIN AND EVIL.

Every sin flows out of the sin of pride.

GO TO.. YE THAT SAY..

Throughout Scripture God gives warnings about falling into the sin of pride.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

I Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

I Timothy 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

In our timeline presentation, we showed how it was Satan's pride that destroyed him.

Satan was made perfect and high and lifted up and it was the cause of his pride.

Ezekiel 28:15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Mankind should naturally be humble because of his situation, and weakness. Yet there is something in sinful men that wants to be exalted also.

God humbles us in the way we come into this world, and we are humbled at the end yet men do not learn.

2. James Exposes the mistake of the sin of self sufficiency.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

The self sufficient person:

There will be a rude awakening some day when all men discover they need the Lord.

Nebuchadnezzar is a perfect illustration of this.

Daniel 4:16 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.

Daniel 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

Only 12 months later we read:

Daniel 4:30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

Daniel 4:31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

Daniel 4:32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Daniel 4:33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

Daniel 4:34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

Daniel 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Daniel 4:36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

Daniel 4:37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

3. Warning concerning the sin of pretending you can know the future.

Go to ye that say today or tomorrow.

All our plans for the future are tentative.

Only God knows the future.

The weathermen are perfect examples.

To know the future is to control the future.

THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN CONTROL THE FUTURE IS GOD.

Only God can predict the future with 100% accuracy.

4. The sin of forgetting that your life is short.

Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

Luke 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luke 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

God called this man a fool because he was making all these plans without inquiring of the Lord.

The Lord someday will say of all of us:

THIS NIGHT THY SOUL SHALL BE REQUIRED OF THEE.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

One thing is for sure, and that is that there is an appointed time for each of us to die.

5. Ye rejoice in your boasting. Such boasting is labeled Evil.

James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

How much evil there is in this world?

TV filled with boasting, pride, and arrogance.

PART II OF NEW YEARS MESSAGE

**YE KNOW NOT WHAT TOMORROW WILL BRING
MORNING SERVICE**

DEALING WITH THE UNKNOWNNS OF LIFE.

I. THE PROPER WAY DEAL WITH THE UNKNOWNNS OF LIFE TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE; YE OUGHT TO SAY.

PROPERLY DEALING WITH THE UNKNOWNNS.

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

1. THE PROPER WAY TO DEAL WITH THE UNKNOWNNS ABOUT TOMORROW IS TO REMAIN HUMBLED AND DEPENDENT ON GOD.

We need to trust the Lord for tomorrow and accept what He brings to us.

I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Everything we do has an effect. But we are not in control of the effects. Let's just make sure everything we do is for the glory of God.

2. TO PROPERLY DEAL WITH THE UNKNOWNNS OF LIFE, WE NEED TO ALSO TAKE THE HEARTACHES OF LIFE WITH PATIENCE, WITH HUMILITY, TRUST, AND FAITH.

Pastor Thompson decided to walk between his church and home.
We don't know what someone will do.

Do we get paranoid about these things?
We are not in control, God is.

I can go out these doors tonight and get in a car accident and die. Am I not to get in a car? Am I not to drive?

We minimize our risks, but every minute of the day we take risks.
THIS ONE THING WE KNOW. WE KNOW NOT WHAT SHALL BE ON THE MORROW.

But this is for sure, someday our soul will be required of us.

Even though we do not know anything about tomorrow.

YET..

The Question is, are we in the will of God when we are taking these risks?
If we are, we should accept the fact that God will be with us.

WE KNOW NOT WHAT WILL BE ON THE MORROW. AS WE ENTER THIS NEW YEAR ONE THING WE KNOW, WE DO NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHAT EACH DAY WILL BRING. LIFE IS FILLED WITH UNKNOWNNS.

Now in light of this fact there is a proper way to live our lives in regard to our plans for tomorrow, and there are improper ways to live our lives.

3. THE PROPER WAY TO DEAL WITH UNKNOWNNS ABOUT THE FUTURE IS TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE LIVING YOUR LIFE IN THE WILL OF GOD.

Think about the risks Paul the Apostle took to serve the Lord.

As long as we are in the will of God we can be assured that whatever trials we face, God will work everything out in His time for His glory.

Jesus gave this promise to His disciples:

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

The Lord promised His disciples to be with them as they went and obeyed His commission to go to the world. I believe this is a promise that the Lord gives to people as they obey His commission to do His service. It is not a promise for those who are not obeying His commission.

In other words if He calls you to do His service as you are obeying His commission, He will protect you.

I believe God called me to the Elkdale Baptist Church and there have been some who have threatened me. Some have threatened to financially hurt the church. Some have tried to destroy our reputation. For a time we had some doing mischievous things. Late at night banging on Mary Warner;s trailer.

He has protected us and He has been with us.

A few times I have been in precarious situations as I went out witnessing.

A. *Sometimes when we are in the will of God we may even suffer.*

Most often we think when we suffer we are doing something wrong.
NO SO.

I Peter 3:17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

I Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

B. *PAUL WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A MAN WHO SUFFERED TO BE IN THE WILL OF GOD!*

II Corinthians 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

II Corinthians 11:24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

II Corinthians 11:25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

II Corinthians 11:26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

II Corinthians 11:27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

II Corinthians 11:28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

YOU KNOW NOT WHAT IS YOUR LIFE.

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Let me ask you something. How would you rather face God, having died to go to see a movie, or going to get a gallon of milk, or in a snowmobile accident, or doing something for God?

WHAT DOES THE WORD WORSHIP MEAN ANYWAY? IT MEANS WORTHY THING.
WHAT IS MORE WOTTHY A CAUSE in your mind? Serving Christ or serving self?

DO WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE WHEN IT SAYS, Absent from the body present with the Lord??? Many times I don't think we do.

Some people would say Paul was foolish for risking his life to preach the Gospel. Was he? No he wasn't! He died serving Christ. That was better than if he died going out to some bar somewhere or going out snowmobiling or doing some other crazy thing that people do today.

Problem is do we really believe it is worth dying to serve Christ? Most people do not believe it is!

I am thinking of a fellow who got a flat tire coming to church. Then his engine blew on the way to church. So he concluded it was not worth coming to church.

JESUS had his back beaten open 3 times by the cat o'nine tail to start churches.

Then we look at this fellow who could not sacrifice the inconvenience of car breakdowns to come to church.

Jesus shed his blood to establish a group of people called the Church.

Jesus suffered all the repercussions of our sin.

Jesus went into the grave.

Jesus was humiliated publicly.

He was despised.

They spit on him.

They ridiculed him.

Curtis Hutson told the story of the fellow in his church that had leaky pipe and drilled a hole in the floor to let the water go into the basement. How often we let little distractions keep us from church.

The devil knows your number and he knows how to deal with you to get you to compromise your faith and obedience to the Lord.

Solomon said it all so well. Vanity vanity.

Can't figure it out.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

Time and chance happeneth to everyone.

Some people get bitter about circumstances of life.

To get bitter about circumstances is to get bitter at God.

IS GOD IN CONROL OR IS HE NOT?!!!

We can get bitter at accidents.
We can get bitter because a loved one died.
We get bitter at people because they don't do what we think they should.

We don't know what tomorrow has in store for us, but one thing we can know is that God is good and we need to trust Him for tomorrow.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The devil works in our minds to get us bitter.
He tries to discourage us.

THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS LIFE OF UNKNOWNNS IS TO BE IN THE LORD'S WILL. AND IF YOU SUFFER IN THE WILL OF GOD, REJOICE.

WE NEED TO SAY IF THE LORD WILLS.
WE SHALL LIVE.
WE SHALL DO.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

***WE NEED TO JUST DO WHAT IS GOOD.
THIS IS WHAT OUR LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.***

OUR LIVES ARE FILLED WITH UNKNOWNNS
Ye know not what shall be on tomorrow.

II. THE IMPROPER WAY TO DEAL WITH THE UNKNOWNNS OF THIS LIFE IS TO LIVE YOUR LIFE AS IF YOU HAVE CONTROL OF IT.

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

It is wrong to live your life expecting that you have 1-2-3-4 years to live.

I Do not know when the Lord will call me home and neither do you.

My Father Died at age 49. This year I will 69. I am amazed the Lord has allowed me to live longer than my dad. I consider myself to be living on borrowed time.

The improper thing to do with your life is to live your life not prepared to meet God at any time.

NOTE THE REBUKE GIVEN:

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

**III. THE IMPROPER WAY TO DEAL WITH THE UNKNOWNNS OF LIFE
JAMES REBUKES PEOPLE WHO ARE SO SURE OF THEIR PROSPERITY!!!**

Murphy's law: If it can go wrong it usually will.

National Music 1st week of sales, looked like I was going to do great until half of the credit apps were rejected. I knew I needed the Lord's help.

This self confidence apart from God is nothing more than pride.
Will you indeed buy and sell and get gain?

I will buy and sell and get gain, this fellow says.

The issue is not buying and selling or even getting gain. The issue is that this person is boasting about his ability to buy and sell and get gain. And his ability to sustain himself through another year. We have no guarantee of anything!

My experience is that when something in this life is too good to be true it is usually too good to be true.

We need to be optimistic pessimists.

Hope for the best but prepare for the worst.

Our national god has become prosperity and money.
God is in the process of judging our god.

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE 1-2-21

IV. WHEN DEALING WITH THE UNKNOWNNS OF LIFE WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT IS OUR LIFE??

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? **It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.**

Our life is likened to a vapor.

What is a vapor? A vapour is something that is transient, ever changing.
Our life is but transient.

HERE TODAY GONE TOMORROW.

Appears a little while.
Vanishes away.

How amazing it is that our very bodies are changing. I worked with a young fellow at superior generator when I first come to the area to go to Bible College. I was working in the mall when this fellow came up to me and introduced himself. He said do you know me? I didn't. His name was Danny Christiano, we called him Danny Christian.

I Hadn't seen him in over 30 years.

Never would have recognized him.

Just a few years back he died.. he was only 58 years old. He died of a massive heart attack.

We are ever changing, bodies growing older.

Just saw my little grandson Paxton, only 5 months passed and he doubled in size.

Psalms 90:9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

Psalms 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Our life is fleeting. We need to make the most of it.

Our life is like a tale that will be told.

We are here for a short time.

James reminds his readers that this being true they need to always acknowledge this to the Lord.

LORD, if you will, if you allow me to live, & do this or that.

Deuteronomy 34:7 And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

David was 70 years old

Solomon died at age 70

John the Baptist was only in his 30's

Billy Sunday Died at age 73

John R Rice 85

Dwight L Moody 62

Lester Roloff died age 68

Spurgeon died age 58

George Whitfield Died age 56

George Muller Died age 93

Charles Finney Died age 83

Curtis Hutson died age 61

No rhyme or reason why we live a long life or short life.

Ecclesiastes 7:13 Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?

Ecclesiastes 7:14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

Ecclesiastes 7:15 All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that prolongeth his life in his wickedness.

It is not always that the just man lives longer than the wicked.

George Burns lived to be 100.

Here are some quotes from George Burns:

"I don't believe in dying. It's been done. I'm working on a new exit. Besides, I can't die now - I'm booked."

George Burns

How can I die? I'm booked.

George Burns would often say.

I can't afford to die; I'd lose too much money.

George Burns.

Yet with all his joking George Burns died at age 100.

V. In light of this truth we should in all our dealings show ourselves dependent on God!

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

IF THE LORD WILLS.

As Christians we should always be looking for the Lord's will in all matters.

LET US LOOK TO HIM IN ALL OUR WAYS.

Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

We should be putting in overtime to store up fruit for eternal life.

We should be busy about God's work.

***VI. IN LIGHT OF THIS LIFE OF UNKNOWNNS
THE BIBLE TELLS US HOW WE OUGHT TO LIVE.***

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Ye ought to say.

If the Lord wills we shall live.

We should live in the will of God, trusting Him for all things.

Believing Him for all things.

Depending on Him for all things.

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

This is how we ought to live.

IF THE LORD WILLS.

What more can we do in this life but pursue the Lord's will for us.

How often we confuse our will with the Lord's will.

Ecclesiastes 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

What more can we do in this life but obey God?

It does not matter if we are poor, rich, or famous.

Imagine how many famous people died and went to hell.

When I worked the mall, I would see parents coming into the mall buying a book for their kids on how to play the guitar.

Buy them a Jimmy Hendricks book. Why would you want your kids to idolize a guy who died on drugs and went to hell.

Scary thought. Do they really think this is good parenting?

I went to the Post Office to buy stamps, and they handed me a book with Marilyn Monroe on it. I handed it back to them.

Then they handed me a book of Elvis Presley stamps. They went from worse to worst.

I handed that back.

Why do we idolize people who died young and committed suicide and died of drug over doses?

Conclusion:

Life is short, and it will not matter how long we lived, it will matter what kind of life we lived.

Jesus accomplished everything He needed to accomplish in 3 1/2 years and died at the age of around 33.

I think one of the greatest parables in the Bible to teach us to make up for lost time, and impress upon us the urgency of serving our Lord is found in:

Luke 16:1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

Luke 16:2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Luke 16:3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

Luke 16:4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

Luke 16:5 So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

Luke 16:6 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

Luke 16:7 Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

Luke 16:8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

Luke 16:9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Luke 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

Luke 16:12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 16:14 And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

Here the interpretation of the parable.

We each should identify with the unjust steward.

We are all stewards of what God has given us.

I Corinthians 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

I Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

I Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

We all are stewards of what God has entrusted us with.

Everything we have is the Lord's, and He has entrusted us all that we have so we can be fruitful for Him.

Have we been faithful and diligent in this stewardship?

What did the steward do that was a problem? He used his stewardship for his own benefit only. He wasted his masters goods. He was not diligent. He was slothful. He neglected his duties.

When I worked in the world. I often thought what would happen if I failed to sell. I saw what happened to other salesmen who were not selling the boss would call them in, and some he let go. Someone hires you to produce. If you don't produce they fire you.

What does God want of us, as stewards. What is his business? He is in the business to building His church and advancing His Kingdom. Someday we will be called into account for what we have done with our stewardship.

Notice in this parable when the unjust and slothful steward was told that his stewardship was going to be called into question. What did he do?

Did he deceive himself and say, everything will be all right? My Lord is going to understand? He didn't say that at all. He said what am I going to do? I need to do something to prepare for that judgment day.

So in the parable he made a concerted effort to do something to prepare for the inevitable. He made up for lost time. In this the parable says he was wise. It even says he was wiser than the children of light. The children of light don't seem to care to make up for lost time. They deceive themselves into thinking they are ok.

In 2022 let us make up for lost time.

Look at all that God has given you and ask yourself this question. What can you do to make up for your slothful years?

Realize this. Look at what Jesus accomplished in just three and a half years.

Consider John the Baptist and what he was able to do in.